REMARKS

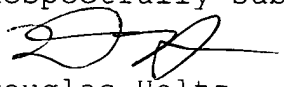
Consideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The title has been amended to accord with the title on page 1 of the specificaiton, and the abstract has been amended to correct a minor clerical error and to better comply with the requirements of MPEP 608.01(b).

In addition, the claims have been amended to make minor grammatical improvements and to correct minor antecedent basis problems so as to put the claims in better U.S. form. These amendments are clearly not related to patentability and do not narrow the scope of the claims either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

It is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification and claims be approved and entered, and that prosecution on the merits proceed in light of this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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